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CUBA.

Reports from Cienfuegos—Precautionary fumigation of steamship Capri from Santos.

Acting Assistant Surgeon McMahon reports, April 14 and 19, as follows:

Week ended April 9, 1904: Ships inspected and bills of health issued, 3; crews inspected, 50; passengers inspected, 2.

The vessels were in good sanitary condition and had no sickness on board. One vessel, the steamship *Capri*, arrived at this port April 2 from Santos, and was fumigated by the Cuban quarantine officer as a precautionary measure.

Mortuary reports for first ten days of April not yet received.

Report for week ended April 16, 1904—Scarlet fever and varicella.

Week ended April 16, 1904: Ships inspected and bills of health issued, 7; crews inspected, 273; passengers inspected, 8.

All vessels in good sanitary condition and no sickness.

Mortuary report, April 1 to 10: Tuberculosis, 2; malaria, 2; meningitis, 1; tetanus, infantile, 2; other causes, 18; total, 25.

There are still a few cases of scarlet fever in the city; some cases of varicella were reported during the past week.

Reports from Habana.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Echemendia reports, April 21, as follows:
Week ended April 16, 1904:

Vessels inspected and bills of health issued	25
Crew of outgoing vessels inspected	880
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected	461
Pieces of freight passed (salted hides)	1,058

Mortuary report of Habana for the week ended April 16, 1904.

Disease.	Number of deaths.
Enteritis.....	4
Tuberculosis.....	21
Meningitis.....	11
Cancer.....	1
Enteric fever.....	1
Gripe.....	1
Pneumonia.....	4
Bronchitis.....	3
Pernicious fever.....	7
Scarlet fever.....	1
Arterio-sclerosis.....	1

Total deaths from all causes, 90.

Sanitary supervision at Habana of passengers and vessels from infected ports destined to Gulf ports of the United States.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Echemendia reports, April 11, as follows:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of April 2, with the inclosed copy of Doctor Souchon's letter, relating to vessels engaged in the traffic between Gulf and Cuban ports,

regarding the detention for five days in Habana of passengers from infected ports before they are allowed to sail for Gulf ports.

In compliance with your request I beg to say that the Cuban quarantine authorities are at present very careful in allowing any crew or passengers from infected ports to land unless they can show conclusively that they are immune. All nonimmune passengers booked for Habana from infected ports are, on arrival, taken to the quarantine station of Triscornia, and a guard is placed on board the vessel with orders not to permit any one to leave the ship or come to it, with the exception of workmen from the lighters, and these have to be immune.

Passengers taken to Triscornia are furnished, after being there the time required by regulations, with a certificate to that effect, and this certificate has to be shown before they are permitted to leave for Gulf ports.

The only danger of noncompliance with this regulation might be in the fact of vessels leaving an infected port for some Gulf port, via Habana, in which case the passengers and crew might be only a few hours here before continuing their route. Though a thorough inspection is always made by this office, and in the bill of health a note made of the date of departure from the infected port and also from this port, in many instances the vessel might arrive in less than five days at its destination.

In civil order No. 122, headquarters department of Cuba, promulgated on April 20, 1902, which is still in force, Article IX, paragraph (d), says that nonimmune passengers arriving in Cuba from ports infected with yellow fever or other quarantinable diseases will, at the discretion of the chief quarantine officer of Cuba, be detained under observation in quarantine a sufficient length of time to cover the incubative period of the disease.

This article makes the restriction on the length of time for quarantine observation a little elastic, as it leaves it to the discretion of the chief quarantine officer whether a nonimmune should be permitted to land immediately on his arrival, even if said nonimmune is less than five days out of an infected port, and with a less conscientious man than Dr. Hugo Roberts, chief quarantine officer of Cuba, this discretion might be a little hazardous, owing to outside pressure.

As far as I know, only on very few occasions, and that recently, has the quarantine officer used the privilege which the law concedes to him, and on these occasions it has been with the full conviction that no danger was incurred by doing so.

Very frequently he consults this office on matters of quarantine regulations, as he desires to follow the system adopted by the American Government.

The Cuban quarantine requires that all nonimmune persons from infected ports are to be detained five days from the time they leave the vessel. Only those who can produce evidence of being immune are permitted to land, and the evidence of immunity must be proved beyond a doubt. No certificates to that effect are accepted when issued in Mexico.

There has been established an immune bureau in the sanitary department, where a record is kept of the names and dates of arrival of all passengers from infected ports. In connection with this bureau there will be kept also records of immunity for the benefit of passengers desiring to go to Mexico and return. With the abolishment of the

immune certificates from Mexico there is almost no possibility of a nonimmune evading the quarantine law and consequently reaching a Gulf port of the United States in less than six days, unless it be through the chief quarantine officer of Cuba, who, by civil order No. 122, may allow the passengers to land without our knowledge.

In January, 1904, the quarantine service of Cuba was transferred to the treasury department as prescribed by civil order No. 122, headquarters department of Cuba. For some unaccountable reason this service has been under the department of Government from July, 1902. This is a step in the right direction, as it shows that the Cuban Government is willing to follow the lines mapped out by the United States Government.

I am glad to say that up to date the reports of the sanitary department of Cuba show no cases of yellow fever, smallpox, or any other quarantinable disease worth speaking of.

The detention station at Triscornia, where passengers from infected ports are detained, has been improved and made mosquito proof, each room being arranged so as to facilitate isolation and fumigation.

Whenever a case of fever is detected among the passengers their quarters are thoroughly fumigated. The fumigation is made with sulphur, 4 pounds for every 1,000 cubic feet, and the room is kept closed for twenty-four hours.

The officer in charge of this station is Dr. Frank Menocal, formerly an acting assistant surgeon in the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service. Great credit is due to this capable and energetic officer for having organized the bureau of immigration, and brought it up to the high standard of efficiency in which it is to-day.

I can assure you that this office will do all in its power in faithfully complying with whatever instructions you may see fit to make on this matter, and will be vigilant in reporting any irregularity that might occur, either inadvertently or otherwise, as I fully appreciate the great responsibility which rests on me by the special regulations formulated for vessels conveying passengers from Habana to Gulf ports, as adopted at the conference held in New Orleans on March 14.

[Reply.]

APRIL 22, 1904.

Acting Assistant Surgeon D. M. ECHEMENDIA,

Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Habana, Cuba.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 16th instant, regarding the new regulations of the States of Louisiana and Alabama, which demand a detention of five days in Habana of passengers from infected ports before they embark for the Gulf ports, and your recommendation that the system of issuing health certificates from your office to such passengers, bound for these ports, be established on the 1st of May, you are informed that your recommendation is approved, and you are authorized to issue such certificates.

Respectfully,

W. WYMAN, Surgeon-General.

Report from Matanzas—A case of leprosy imported.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nuñez reports, April 18, as follows:

During the week ended April 16, 1904, 8 bills of health were issued to vessels bound for ports in the United States.

One new case of leprosy coming from the inland town of Alacranes,